

advice has been sought by officials both inside and outside of government. Admiral McCreary has been the right person, in the right job, at the right time for the U.S. Navy.

I know Rear Admiral McCreary's contributions to our Nation will continue. As he retires, I want to offer him and his wife, Joppat, my personal appreciation for their service and wish them well as they begin this new phase of their lives together.

**TRIBUTE TO THE U.S. COAST  
GUARD AIR STATION IN TRA-  
VERSE CITY, MI**

**HON. DAVE CAMP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 18, 2006*

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the members of the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station in Traverse City, MI, whose heroic efforts on the night of July 8, 2006, saved the lives of two young men adrift on Lake Michigan.

When the boys did not return home after a nighttime swim, the Air Station dispatched Coast Guard Helicopter 6551 to aid in the search mission. Six hours after the boys' disappearance, the crew of 6551—Lieutenant Joe Klatt, Lieutenant Gabe Somma, Aviation Electronic Technician Third Class Bobby Teal, and Chief Aviation Survival Technician Kurt Revels—spotted them clinging to a raft near the Mackinac Bridge on the last leg of their assigned search area. With limited fuel, the crew of 6551 commenced a daring rescue. Lieutenant Klatt flew the helicopter into a stable position; Petty Officer Teal used the rescue hoist to lower Chief Revels into the rough night waters; Chief Revels loaded the young men into the rescue basket; Petty Officer Teal hoisted them into the safety of the helicopter; and Lieutenant Somma navigated the craft to Pellston Airport, where emergency services successfully treated the boys for hypothermia.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District, I applaud the Traverse City Coast Guard Air Station for its tireless efforts to protect the lives and ensure the safety of every person under their watch. The heroism of the crew of Helicopter 6551 illustrates why this Coast Guard Air Station is the only unit to have received the prestigious Coast Guard Aviation Training Center Standardization Excellence Award for 3 consecutive years.

**HONORING PHILIP BINKLEY FOR 30  
YEARS OF INSTRUCTING YOUNG  
MUSICIANS AT LOMA LINDA  
ACADEMY**

**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 18, 2006*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to pay tribute to an extraordinary music teacher who is retiring after 44 years of educating and encouraging youth to strive toward musical excellence, thirty years of which were spent enlightening the minds of students at Loma Linda Academy.

Philip Binkley's interest in music began at an early age and continued throughout his life.

By receiving both a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree in Music Education, Mr. Binkley proved his sincere devotion to educating others. During his 30 years at the Loma Linda Academy, Mr. Binkley led the school's highest level symphonic band at performances around the globe, setting new standards of achievement. The Loma Linda Academy Symphonic Band was the first high school symphonic band to perform at the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California, and was one of only nine U.S. and Canada bands selected to perform at the World Exposition in Brisbane, Australia.

Mr. Binkley's continual encouragement strengthened the self-confidence and musical proficiency of each student, resulting in worldwide recognition of the Loma Linda Academy Symphonic Band. In 1992 they captured first place runner-up at the International Music Festival held in Sweden, and won the gold medal at the Munich International Music Festival in 1995. During that same year they represented the United States at the Vienna Klangbogen Festival in Germany.

Mr. Binkley's commitment to his students did not stop at musical excellence; rather he made it a priority to encourage his pupils to live up to the highest standards of integrity. On each trip overseas, he included in the daily itinerary a unique statement which served to remind his students of the importance in serving as model citizens of the United States. Through the Loma Linda Academy Symphonic Band, Mr. Binkley strived to represent to other nations the positive qualities of America's youth.

Outside of teaching, Philip Binkley chose to serve his community by acting as the Minister of Music at several churches in Florida and California. By devoting time to local churches, he was able to expand the musical knowledge of hundreds of individuals. Mr. Binkley's dedication was rewarded with the Loma Linda Teacher of the Year award in 1992 and 2006, and in being named Teacher of Excellence by the Alumni Awards Foundation in 2006.

Mr. Speaker, Philip Binkley has certainly succeeded in becoming an exemplary model of a teacher's commitment to students. Please join me in thanking Mr. Binkley for a lifetime of devotion to the musical education of America's youth, and in wishing him well in his years to come.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 18, 2006*

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 375, 376, and 377 my flight was delayed and I did not arrive in Washington until after the votes were over.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. MAJOR R. OWENS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 18, 2006*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on Monday July 17, 2006 due to unavoidable cir-

cumstances in my Congressional District. Had I been present, I would have voted: "yea" to H.R. 3085—To amend the National Trails System Act to update the feasibility and suitability study originally prepared for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and provide for the inclusion of new trail segments, land components, and campgrounds associated with that trail, and for other purposes; "yea" to H.R. 3496—National Capital Transportation Amendments Act of 2005 and "yea" to H.R. 3729—Federal Judiciary Emergency Tolling Act of 2005.

**TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM KARNET  
"BILL" WILLIS**

**HON. RALPH REGULA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 18, 2006*

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the achievements of William Karnet "Bill" Willis of Columbus, Ohio.

Mr. Willis was a 3-year starter for The Ohio State University and starred on the 1942 National Championship football team as a sophomore. He was twice recognized for his football talents as an All-Big 10 honoree while at The Ohio State University.

After college, Mr. Willis served as the Head Football Coach and Athletic Director of Kentucky State College in 1945. He subsequently signed a contract on August 6, 1946 with the Cleveland Browns to play professional football in the first year that the All-American Football Conference competed.

Upon signing his contract with the Cleveland Browns, Mr. Willis broke the color barrier in professional football a full year before Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball. With this landmark achievement, Mr. Willis became a role model for others.

Continuing his role as a trailblazer, Mr. Willis played in the first three Pro Bowl games for the National Football League. Specifically, the game-winning tackle by Mr. Willis in the divisional playoff between the New York Giants and the Cleveland Browns propelled the Cleveland Browns to the 1950 National Football League Championship.

Mr. Willis played professional football with the Cleveland Browns for the 8 years from 1946 to 1953.

After his football career, Mr. Willis was appointed to the Ohio Youth Commission in 1963 and was named Commission Director. He is a member of the City of Columbus Hall of Fame in recognition of his accomplishments.

Mr. Willis was inducted into the Professional Football Hall of Fame in 1977 for his outstanding achievements in and contributions toward professional football.

His record of remarkable leadership in helping the young people of Ohio will be a lasting legacy of achievement.